THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI) : (a) to (d) The Exim Policy 2003-04 has come into force only *w.e.f.* 1st April, 2003 and India's foreign trade data pertaining to April, 2003 will be available only by 1st June, 2003. Thus it is too early to see its impact on our exports. However, India's exports of merchandise goods for the year 2002-03 has been valued at US$ 51.7 billion implying a growth rate of 18.05% thereby surpassing the target of 12% and the new Exim Policy has many policies to increase both merchandise and services exports. The major countries where an increase of India's exports has been registered during April-January 2002-03 are USA (29.09%), China (95.71%), EU (15.12%), UAE (32.78%) and Japan (24.27%), etc.

(e) Export promotion being a constant endeavour, a Medium Term Export Strategy which is co-terminus with the 10th Plan period (2002—07) was announced in January, 2002 with the objective of enhancing India's exports. In line with this strategy, a number of programmes/schemes have been launched which include schemes like Assistance to States for Developing Export Infrastructure (ASIDE), establishing Agri Export Zones, Market Access Initiative, strengthening "Focus LAC" programme, introducing "Focus Africa" programme, etc. In the Exim Policy 2003-04, besides, the focus on Service exports, policies have been devised to strengthen Special Economic Zones (SEZs), 100% Export Oriented Units (EOUs), etc. A new programme called "Focus CIS" has been introduced. Thus measures are being taken from time to time to increase India's exports.

Impact of communal disturbances on industries in Gujarat

4502. SHRI AHMED PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent communal disturbances in Gujarat have adversely affected the industrialisation of the State as the entrepreneurs have started deserting the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to control this situation in the State?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) There has been no adverse effect of recent communal

disturbances on the industry in Gujarat in terms of industrial investment intentions measured by way of Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda (IEMs) filed and Letters of Intent (LOIs) issued. During 2002-03, 304 investment intentions have been recorded in Gujarat as compared to 279 during the previous year. The industrial power consumption in Gujarat has increased from 11,182 million units in 2001-02 to 11,248 million units in 2002-03.

Similarly, as per the information furnished by Ministry of Labour, the number of industrial closures during 2002 was 31 compared to 43 during 2001.

Import of used sheet fed offset printing machines

4503. SHRI ABANI ROY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether country's import has registered a steep increase in the past for used sheet fed offset printing machines;

(b) if so, the details of import done in this period and the comparative data of the same for the previous three years;

(c) whether the EXIM policy permits the import of used sheet fed offset printing machines which are manufactured in India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI) : (a) to (d) As per the Exim Policy, 2002—2007, capital goods including 2nd-hand offset printing machines older than 10 years can only be imported with an import licence. Licences for such import are issued on the recommendation of Exim Facilitation Committee (EFC) (an Inter-Ministerial Committee consisting of representatives from concerned Ministries and technical authorities). A Statement indicating number of cases cleared by EFC for import of 2nd-hand offset printing machines during the last three years is enclosed *(See* below*)*. It may be observed that there is no increase in number of such cases cleared by EFC over the years. These imports were cleared with actual user conditions.